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# Simultaneous Uniformization

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## SIMULTANEOUS UNIFORMIZATION

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We shall show that any two Riemann surfaces satisfying a certain condition, for instance, any two closed surfaces of the same genus  $g > 1$ , can be uniformized by one group of fractional linear transformations (Theorem 1). This leads, in conjunction with previous results [2,3], to the simultaneous uniformization of all algebraic curves of a given genus (Theorems 2-4). Theorem 5 contains an application to infinitely dimensional Teichmüller spaces.

1. Let  $S$  be an abstract Riemann surface,  $f$  a homeomorphism of bounded eccentricity of  $S$  onto another such surface  $S'$ , and  $[f]$  the homotopy class of  $f$ . We call  $(S, [f], S')$  a coupled pair of Riemann surfaces, an even (odd) pair if  $f$  preserves (reverses) orientation. Two coupled pairs,  $(S, [f], S')$  and  $(S_1, [f_1], S'_1)$  are called equivalent if there exist conformal homeomorphisms  $h$  and  $h'$  with  $h(S) = S_1$ ,  $h'(S) = S'_1$ , and  $[h'fh^{-1}] = [f_1]$ .

Example. Let  $m$  be a Beltrami differential on the Riemann surface  $S_0$ , i.e. a differential of type  $(-1,1)$ ,  $m = (\zeta)d\bar{\zeta}/d\zeta$ , with  $|\mu| \leq \text{const.} < 1$ . By  $S_0^m$  we denote the surface  $S_0$  with the conformal structure redefined by means of the local metric  $|d\zeta + \mu d\bar{\zeta}|$ . With  $m$  there is associated the even pair  $(S_0^m, [1], S)$ , where  $1$  is the identity mapping, and the odd pair  $(S_0^m, [\iota], \bar{S}_0)$  where  $\iota$  denotes the natural mapping of  $S_0$  onto its mirror image  $\bar{S}_0$ . The latter is defined by replacing each local uniformization  $\zeta$  on  $S_0$  by  $\bar{\zeta}$ .



A group  $G$  of Möbius transformations will be called quasi-Fuchsian if there exists an oriented Jordan curve  $\gamma_G$  (on the Riemann sphere  $P$ ) which is fixed under  $G$ , and if  $G$  is fixed-point-free and properly discontinuous in the domains  $I(\gamma_G)$  and  $E(\gamma_G)$  interior and exterior to  $\gamma_G$ , respectively. If  $\gamma_G$  is a circle,  $G$  is a Fuchsian group.

A quasi-Fuchsian group  $G$  is canonically isomorphorphic to the fundamental groups of the two Riemann surfaces  $S_1 = I(\gamma_G)/G$  and  $S_2 = E(\gamma_G)/G$ , modulo inner automorphisms. If the resulting isomorphisms of the fundamental groups of  $S_1$  onto those of  $S_2$  can be induced by an orientation reversing homeomorphism  $f$  of bounded eccentricity,  $G$  is called proper. In this case  $[f]$  is uniquely determined. Thus a proper quasi-Fuchsian group represents a coupled pair  $(S_1, [f], S_2)$ .

A quasi-Fuchsian group  $G$  is said to be of the first (second) kind if the fixed points of elements of  $G$  are (are not) dense on  $\gamma_G$ . This is, as one sees at once, a property of  $S_1$  (or of  $S_2$ ).

2. Theorem 1. Let  $S$  be a Riemann surface with hyperbolic universal covering surface and  $(S, [f], S')$  an odd coupled pair. Then this pair (is equivalent to one which) can be represented by a quasi-Fuchsian group  $G$ . If  $G$  is of the first kind, then every quasi-Fuchsian group  $G_1$  representing an equivalent coupled pair is of the form  $G_1 = CGC^{-1}$  where  $C$  is a Möbius transformation.

Proof. One sees easily that any odd coupled pair is equivalent to one of the form  $(S_0^m, [u], \bar{S}_0)$ ; we assume therefore that the given pair already has this form. If  $S_0^m$  is not the sphere, the plane, the punctured plane or a torus, the same is true of  $S_0$ . In this case the classical uniformization theorem asserts





that the pair  $(S_0, [0], \overline{S}_0)$  can be represented by a Fuchsian group  $G_0$ ; we may assume that  $\gamma_{G_0}$  is the real axis. There exists a measurable function  $\mu(z)$ ,  $|z| < \infty$ , such that  $\mu(z) \equiv 0$  for  $\text{Im } z \leq 0$  and  $\mu(z) d\overline{z}/dz = m$  for  $\text{Im } z > 0$ . Then  $|\mu| \leq \text{const.} < 1$  and  $\mu(z)d\overline{z}/dz$  is invariant under  $G_0$ . It is known (cf. for instance, [1]) that there exists a unique solution  $\Omega_m(z)$  of the Beltrami equation  $\partial \Omega / \partial \overline{z} = \mu(z) \partial \Omega / \partial z$  which has generalized  $L_2$  derivatives and is a homeomorphism of  $P$  onto itself, with fixed points at  $0, 1, \infty$ . If  $A_0 \in G_0$ , then  $\Omega_m A_0$  satisfies the same Beltrami equation; it follows that there is a Möbius transformation  $A$  with  $\Omega_m A_0 = A \Omega_m$ . One verifies easily that  $G = \Omega_m G_0 \Omega_m^{-1}$  is a quasi-Fuchsian group representing  $(S_0^m, [0], \overline{S}_0)$ . We note that  $\gamma_G = \Omega_m(\gamma_{G_0})$  has two-dimensional measure zero.

Assume next that  $G$  is of the first kind and that the quasi-Fuchsian group  $G_1$  represents an equivalent pair. Then there exist conformal mappings  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  with  $\phi(I(\gamma_G)) = I(\gamma_{G_1})$ ,  $\psi(E(\gamma_G)) = E(\gamma_{G_1})$ ,  $\phi G \phi^{-1} = \psi G \psi^{-1} = G_1$ , and, for every  $A \in G$ ,

$\phi A \phi^{-1} = B \psi A \psi^{-1} B^{-1}$ ,  $B$  being a fixed element of  $G_1$ . Since  $\psi$  may be replaced by  $B\psi$ , we lose no generality in assuming that  $B = 1$ .

The functions  $\phi(z)$  and  $\psi(z)$  are conformal homeomorphisms between Jordan domains and hence topological on  $\gamma_{G_0}$ . Since  $\phi A \phi^{-1} = \psi A \psi^{-1}$  for  $A \in G$ , we have that  $\phi = \psi$  at the fixed points of  $A$ . Therefore  $\phi = \psi$  on  $\gamma_{G_0}$  and there exists a homeomorphism  $C$  of  $P$  onto itself such that  $C G C^{-1} = G_1$ ,  $C(z) = \phi(z)$  in  $I(\gamma_{G_0})$  and  $C(z) = \psi(z)$  in  $E(\gamma_{G_0})$ .



Using known properties of  $\bigcap_m$  (cf. [1]) and a standard reasoning we verify that  $C \bigcap_m$  has  $L_2$  derivatives everywhere; so, therefore, does  $C$ . Since  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} C/\lambda \bar{z} = 0$  a.e.,  $C$  is conformal and hence a Möbius transformation.

3. Consider now a fixed closed Riemann surface  $S_0$  of genus  $g > 1$ . The equivalence classes of even coupled pairs  $(S, [f], S_0)$  are the points of the Teichmüller space  $T_g$ . It is known that  $T_g$  has a natural complex-analytic structure and can be represented as a bounded domain in the number space  $\mathbb{C}^{3g-3}$ ; also  $T_g$  is homeomorphic to a cell (cf. [2,3] and the reference given there). If  $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_{3g-3}) \in T_g$ , we denote by  $(S_{\mathcal{C}}, [f_{\mathcal{C}}], S_0)$  any pair represented by  $\mathcal{C}$ . There exists a properly discontinuous group  $\Gamma_g$  of holomorphic automorphisms of  $T_g$  such that  $S_{\mathcal{C}_1}$  is conformally equivalent to  $S_{\mathcal{C}_2}$  if and only if  $\mathcal{C}_1$  and  $\mathcal{C}_2$  are equivalent under  $\Gamma_g$ .

Theorem 2. There exist  $2g$  Möbius transformations  $A_j^{(\mathcal{C})}$  which depend holomorphically on  $\mathcal{C} \in T_g$ , satisfy the normalization conditions:  $A_{2g-1}(0) = 0$ ,  $A_{2g-1}(\infty) = \infty$ ,  $A_{2g}(1) = 1$ ,  $\prod_{j=1}^g A_{2j-1} A_{2j} A_{2j-1}^{-1} A_{2j}^{-1} = 1$ , and generate, for each fixed  $\mathcal{C}$ , a quasi-Fuchsian group  $G$  with  $I(\gamma_G) / G$  conformally equivalent to  $S_{\mathcal{C}}$ .

Holomorphic dependence of  $A_j^{(\mathcal{C})}$  on  $\mathcal{C} \in T_g$  means, of course, that  $A^{(\mathcal{C})}(z) = [a(\mathcal{C})z + b(\mathcal{C})] / [c(\mathcal{C})z + d(\mathcal{C})]$ , where  $a, b, c, d$  are holomorphic functions.

Sketch of proof. We may assume that  $0 \in T_g$  corresponds to the pair  $(S_0, [1], S_0)$ . Let  $G_0$  be the Fuchsian group (with  $\gamma_{G_0}$  the real axis) representing the odd pair  $(S_0, [\mathcal{C}], \bar{S}_0)$ , and let



$\{A_1^{(0)}, \dots, A_{2g}^{(0)}\}$  be a suitably normalized set of generators of  $G_0$ . Every pair  $(S_\ell^m, [f_\ell], S_0)$  is equivalent to one of the form  $(S_0^m, [1], S_0)$ . Let  $\Omega_m$  be as in the proof of Theorem 1, and set  $A_j^{(\tau)} = \Omega_m A_j^{(0)} \Omega_m^{-1}$ . Using Theorem 1 and the properties of  $\Omega_m$  proved in [1], as well as the definition of the complex analytic structure of  $T_g$  (cf. [2]), one verifies that  $A_j^{(\tau)}$  depend only on  $\tau$  and not on  $m$ , and have the required properties.

Note that  $\gamma_G = \Omega_m(\gamma_{G_0})$ , so that this curve admits the representation  $z = \zeta(t, \tau)$ ,  $-\infty < t < \infty$  where  $\zeta$  depends holomorphically on  $\tau$ , and  $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$  for  $|t| \rightarrow \infty$ .

4. Next, let  $S_0$  be as before, and let  $S_1$  denote the surface obtained by removing some fixed point from  $S_0$ . The equivalence classes of even coupled pairs  $(S, [f], S_1)$  are the points of the Teichmüller space  $T_{g,1}$  which is again a complex manifold homeomorphic to a cell and representable as a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{C}^{3g-2}$ . Using the methods of the proof of Theorem 2 it is not difficult to establish

Theorem 3.  $T_{g,1}$  is holomorphically equivalent to the domain  $M_{g,1} \subset \mathbb{C}^{3g-2}$  defined as follows:  $(z, \tau) = (z, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_{3g-3}) \in M_{g,1}$  if and only if  $\tau \in T_g$  and  $z \in I(\gamma_{G_\tau})$ .

The results of [2, § 10] can now be restated as

Theorem 4. There exist finitely many meromorphic functions,  $F_1(z, \tau), \dots, F_N(z, \tau)$ , in  $M_{g,1}$  which, for every fixed  $\tau$ , generate the field of automorphic functions in  $I(\gamma_{G_\tau})$  under the group  $G_\tau$ , i.e. - the field of meromorphic functions on  $S_\tau$ .



These functions uniformize simultaneously all algebraic function fields of genus  $g$ , just as the functions  $\wp(z, 1, \tau)$ ,  $\wp'(z, 1, \tau)$ ,  $|z| < \infty$ ,  $\text{Im } \tau > 0$ , uniformize all elliptic function fields.

5. Finally let  $S_0$  be any open Riemann surface without non-trivial conformal self mapping homotopic to the identity. The Teichmüller space  $T(S_0)$ , i.e. the space of equivalence classes of even pairs  $(S, [f], S_0)$  is a complete metric space (under the Teichmüller distance) but, in general, infinitely dimensional. Nevertheless we may define a continuous complex valued function  $\Phi$  on  $T(S_0)$  to be holomorphic if for every  $p_1 = (S_1, [f], S_0) \in T(S_0)$  and every finite sequence  $(m_1, \dots, m_r)$  of Beltrami's differentials on  $S_1$ , the mapping of a neighborhood of  $0 \in \mathbb{C}^r$  into  $\mathbb{C}$  given by  $(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_r) \rightarrow p = (S_1^{\zeta_1 m_1 + \dots + \zeta_r m_r}, [f], S_0) \rightarrow \Phi(p)$  is holomorphic. The method of proof of theorem 2 yields

Theorem 5. If  $(S_0, [f], S_0)$  is representable by a Fuchsian group of the first kind, then there exist a finite or infinite sequence of Möbius transformation  $\{A_j^{(p)}\}$ , depending holomorphically on  $p \in T(S_0)$  and such that, for every fixed  $q = (S_1, [f], S_0) \in T(S_0)$ , the  $A_j^{(q)}$  generate a quasi-Fuchsian group  $G_q$  with  $I(\gamma_{G_q})/G_q$  conformally equivalent to  $S_1$ .

Thus there are many holomorphic functions on  $T(S_0)$ , in particular, enough functions to separate points.





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